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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7044
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XF, CY
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY

USIA FOR IOP/M
GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA FEBRUARY 9 CARRIED A TASS ITEM SUMMARIZING A PARIS FIGARO STORY ON ALLEGED U.S. POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO TASS, ISRAELI SOURCES CLAIM THE U.S. HAS TOLD ISRAEL IT IS VITAL THAT TEL AVIV WIN TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO ALLOW THE U.S. AND THE WEST TO WEATHER THE ENERGY CRISIS. TO DO THIS, TASS ASSERTS, U.S. HAS SAID ISRAEL MUST "ATTACH THE GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE" TO ANY ARAB CONCESSIONS AND IN RETURN FOR ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI MUST NOT EXPECT MORE THAN "AN UNOFFICIAL PROMISE" FROM EGYPT NOT TO GO TO WAR FOR TWO TO THREE YEARS. ACCORDING TO TASS, THE U.S. HAS SAID THE ALTER-NATIVE TO THIS IS RETURN TO GENEVA. TASS ALSO REPORTS FIGARO CLAIM THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN WARNED THAT IT COULD NOT COUNT ON UN-RESTRICTED AMERICAN AID IF A MIDDLE EAST WAR ERUPTS.

2. PRESS JUXTAPOSES THIS REPORT WITH A BLAND COMMENTARY ON GROMYKO'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST (IQXESTIYA FEB 8). COMMENT BY KAMYNIN CLAIMS THE GROMYKO TRIP PRODUCED A "CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" IN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. IT WAS NOTED IN CAIRO AND DAMASJKUS, HE ASSERTS, THAT TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED LANDS AND SECURING THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTAIIANS IS THE ONLY PATH TO A STABLE MIDDLEEAST PEACE. IT WAS
ALSO AGREED, GE ALLEGES, THAT ISRAELS' REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THESE REALITIES MAKES ALL THE MORE OBVIOUS THE NEED FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF THE MEPC WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING THE PLO.

3. IN SIMILAR VEIN PRAVDA'S WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (FEB 9) SAYS GROMYKO'S TRIP "DEMONSTRATED THE READINESS OF THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST". REVIEW CLAIMS PARTIES EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MUST RECONVENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND ASSERTS THAT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AN EVER CLEARER DIVISION BETWEEN "THOSE WHO ARE WORKING FOR A TRUE GUARANTEE OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE AREA'S PEOPLES AND THOSE WHO, AS BEFORE, ARE SEEKING THEIR OWN SELFISH GOALS" IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE DISTINCT.

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4. PUBLIC LECTURER AT ZNANIYE SOCQE 8)"15743 (FEB 9)
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DISCUSSED THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP AND STRESSED U.S. ADHERENCE TO THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH A RESTATEMENT OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR RECONVENING THE MEPC IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, LECTURER, INTERESTINGLY, DID NOT MENTION GROMYKO'S TRIP TO DAMASCUS AND CAIRO. LENINGRAD LECTURER BY CONTRAST TREATED GROMYKO'S TRIP IN SOME DETAIL (REFTEL).

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5. CYPRUS. PRAVDA (FEB 10) CARRIES TASS REPORT FROM NICOSIA ALLEGING "THAT CERTAIN WESTERN CIRCLES, SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITHIN NATO, ARE CONTINUING INTRIGUES AIMED AT HINDERING THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND AT ATTAINING A PARTITION OF THE ISLAND." MAKARIOS IS CITED EXPRESSING "DEEP CONCERN" AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. TASS SAYS THAT THERE IS GROWING CONVICTION THAT A SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS MUST BE SOUGHT THROUGH A REPRESENTATIVE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES WHICH SHOULD ASSIST IN "SECURING STABLE GUARANTEES" FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS.

6. U.S. WEEKEND PRESS GIVES CONSIDERABLE POSITIVE ATTENTION TO SALT AND THE 1975 SUMMIT. PRAVDA (FEB 9) CARRIES TASS REPORT ON INTRODUCTION IN THE HOUSE--BY CONGRESSMAN BINGHAM--OF A RESOLUTION WHICH WELCOMES THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD AS "AN IMPORTANT STEP" TOWARD ESTABLISHING MUTUAL CONTROL OF ARMS. TASS SAYS FURTHER THAT THE RESOLTUTION EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT A SALT AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO FURTHER LIMITATION ON ARMAMENTS. ON THE SAME THEME, PRAVDA'S WEELY REVIEW NOTES THAT PRESIDENT FORD IN HIS FEBURARY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE SAID HE IS WAITING FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT THIS SUMMER AT A TIME WHEN A SALT AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED. REVIEW ALSO NOTES THAT OBSERVERS ARE CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW THAT U.S.-SOVIET DIFFERENCES OVER SALT ARE RELATIVELY SMALL.

7. IN OTHER AREAS MOSCOW EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAM (FEB 9) DEVOTED FIVE MINUTES TO AN INTERVIEW WITH ARMAND HAMMER. INTER-VIEW SHOWED A MOCK-UP OF THE PROPOSED MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER AND INDICATED CONSTRUCTION WOULD BEGIN IN MARCH. HAMMER STRESSED THAT U.S.-SOVIET TRADE, DESPITE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED
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WITH THE TRADE ACT, CONTINUES TO HAVE GOOD PROSPECTS. ON THE MORE NEGATIVE SIDE, IZVESTIY (FEB 8) REPLAYS A PERUVINA PRESS CHARGE THAT THE RECENT POLITICAL DISTRUBANCES IN PERU WRE BACKED BY THE CIA.

8. ON THE U.S. DOMESTIC SCENE PRAVDA (FEB 8) REPORTS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR JACKSON'S CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY BUT REPLAYS NEW YROK TIMES COMMENT THAT JACKSON'S PROGRAM APPEARS OUTDATED AND A HOLDOVER FROM AN EARLIER PERIOD. PRAVDA (FEB 9) ARTICLE BY WASHINTON CORRESPONDENT STREL'NIKOV FOCUSES ON RECENT UNEMPLOYMENT RELATED DISTURBANCES IN ATLANTA TO ADD YET ANOTHER ARTICLE TO THE PRESS'S CONTINUING SERIES PAINTING A DARK PICTURE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY AND WIDESPREAD UNEMPLOYMENT.
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9. ZNANIYE SOCIETY LECTURER (FEB 9) ALSO MENTINED THE SUMMER FORD-

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BREZHNEV SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, INDICATING THAT PROPAGANDISTS ARE
NOW FULLY GEARED TO PUSH THE LINE THAT THE SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE
AS SCHEDULED.
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10. VIET NAM. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW (FEB 9) COMMENTED ON THE
45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRV PARTY ON FEB 3, WHILE PRAVDA (FEB 10)
REPLAYED EXERPTS FROM A NAN DAN LEADING ARTICLE ON THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET-DRV DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BOTH ITEMS
STRESSED THE GRATEFUL THANKS OF THE VIETNAMESE FOR CONSISTENT
SOVIET SUPPORT. PRAVA (FEB 10) ALSO CARRIED A TASS ITEM FROM
BANGKOK REPORTING ALLEGED PREPARATIONS BY SAIGON TO INTENSIFY THE
FIGHTING IN SOUTH VIET NAM. THE U.S. WAS NOT EXPLI
ITLY CRITICIZED
IN ANY OF THESE ITEMS.
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